

TRAILS

A WELCOME FROM THE NEW DIRECTOR OF TRAILS

Article by Tammi Thiem

I am so excited to begin the new adventure as the TRAILS director! It is a bittersweet transition, as I absolutely loved my job as director of the Genoa Public Library. I will miss so many things about that position — ordering books, receiving books (Christmas-like every time, with that new-book smell!), planning programs, discussing books, helping to find information, and the millions of other things that librarians do that create the heart and soul of their libraries. Most of all, I will miss the people of the community. After all, that is what libraries are all about.

I look forward to visiting all of the libraries in the TRAILS region and meeting all of the librarians. It will be an eye-opening experience, as I expect to learn something new every single day. It will be a wonderful opportunity to explore the differences between the libraries. I hope to help find solutions to problems and to share the information that I learn with everyone. One of my favorite parts of the library world is the

eagerness of librarians to share information, ideas, and passion for their profession with one another, as librarians are usually generous and giving.

If anyone has any questions, problems, suggestions, or comments, please contact me. My email address is tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com. My phone number is 402-910-7005. I certainly do not expect to have all of the answers, but I look forward to the opportunity to help explore solutions.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Census 2020
- Medical Resources
- DIY Breakout Boxes
- A Dedicated Memorial Library
- Scholarship Experiences
- Ugly Sweater Cookies & Other Winter Festivities
- Book Reviews

Three Rivers Library System
11929 Elm St.
Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144

Phone: 402.330.7884
E-mail Eric at:
Eric.Jones.TRLS@outlook.com

Pandemic Preparedness

With the current spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), libraries and communities will be impacted. Libraries are always a source of reliable information and are on the forefront to provide accurate education to their community. In order to help support our libraries, below are the resources to help during this worldwide outbreak.

[The Nebraska Library Commission](#) has put together some resources to help guide your library through this stressful time, which you can see on their [blog post](#). The Nebraska Library Commission is also keeping track of [libraries that have announced closings](#). In order to help the Commission keep track of closings, you can submit your library closing through [this survey](#).

The American Library Association has put together a [list of resources](#) as well, including a list of topics that libraries can include in [policies on illness](#). They also compiled a list of [federal](#) and [state resources](#).

The [Disaster Information Management Research Center](#) has put together an [In Case of Emergencies: Continuity of Operations Planning course](#) which should take about an hour to go through. This course provides a continuity plan template with instructions that libraries can use to develop their own plan.

As always, the Three Rivers Library System is here to support our libraries. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to give us a call at 402-330-7884 or email our director at tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com.

Scholarships

TRaiLS continuing education scholarships are available to attend state, regional, and nationwide conferences and events. Any director, media specialist, staff member, or trustee at libraries in the TRaiLS service area may apply. Applications will be reviewed by the scholarship committee after the deadline to apply for each specific scholarship has passed. Scholarship recipients will be notified prior to the event with money awarded after attendance of the event.

An application to apply can be found at <http://libraries.ne.gov/trls/calendar-2/scholarship-opportunities/>

Giveaway Items

At the office, we're parting with our professional development collection as well some titles from our book kits, so head on over to trails.libib.com/i/give-away and see if there's anything your library may need.

If there is, send Chelsea an e-mail at trls.assistant@gmail.com and she can help figure out a pickup or drop-off date.



Did You Know:

School Library Journal is hosting a free virtual event called *Middle Grade Magic!* Register for free on [their website](#). Attendees will get to learn about new titles, hear from celebrated authors, and attend librarian-led sessions on services and programming for middle graders.

STATEWIDE COVID-19 INFORMATION LINE OPEN FOR RESIDENTS

Press Release from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

As Nebraska continues to adjust to a new normal as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 on the state, the [Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#) has set up a coronavirus (COVID-19) information line that will allow residents to get answers to general questions and receive information on resources available. That number is (402) 552-6645; hours of operation are 8am–8pm, 7 days a week.

If you are concerned that you may have COVID-19, it's important to remember to call ahead to your healthcare provider to be screened over the phone. The provider can evaluate and determine if testing is necessary.

In addition to the state's information line, some counties have also established hotlines. They include:

- **Douglas County/Omaha:** Douglas County Health Department's COVID-19 Information Line is open weekdays from 8:30am to 400 pm at (402) 444-

3400 to answer general questions about this new disease. The line is answered in English and Spanish. The United Way's 2-1-1 information line is also taking calls when the DCHD line is closed.

- **Lancaster County/ Lincoln:** The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department has established a hotline for self-reporting, guidance, and next steps at (402) 441-3400

Local health departments are also a helpful resource. A map of Nebraska's local health departments can be found here — http://dhhs.ne.gov/CHPM%20Maps/NE_Health_Dept_Map_Dec_2016.pdf

Visit the DHHS COVID-19 webpage at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx> and CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

UPCOMING BASIC SKILLS COURSE AND REGISTRATION DATES

Class Dates:	Class Title:	Registration Dates:
3/9 - 3/20	<u>Library Governance</u>	2/3 - 2/28
4/6–4/24	<u>Library Technology</u>	2/17 - 3/27
4/1 - 5/31	<u>Introduction to Cataloging (Organization of Materials)*</u>	2/24 - 3/20
5/4–5/22	<u>Library Finance</u>	3/16 - 4/10
5/25– 6/12	<u>Intellectual Freedom / Core Values*</u>	4/6 - 5/1
6/8 - 6/19	<u>Readers' Advisory</u>	5/4 - 5/29

* Required class

Calendar of Events

[NCompass Live: Teen Summer Camps](#)
Online

18 March 2020
10:00 am–11:00am

[NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech](#)
Online

25 March 2020
10:00am–11:00am

[School Library Month](#)
April 2020

[National Library Week](#)
19–25 April 2020

[Nebraska School Librarians Day](#)

25 April 2020
9:00 am–1:00 pm

[Golden Sower Reading Day](#)
Seward Memorial Library
22 May 2020
9:30am–12:30 pm

LIBRARY NEWS

NICC's Santee Campus Library Renamed the Wanda Henke Memorial Library

Article by Megan Miller

On November 15th, 2019, the family of Wanda Henke, Nebraska Indian College (NICC) staff and students, and both the Santee and Niobrara communities came together for the dedication of the 'Wanda Henke Memorial Library'. NICC's Santee Campus was proud to host the event in honor of the beloved librarian who passed away last August. Known by many more titles than librarian, Henke's reach extended to teacher, GED tester, babysitter, writing tutor, event coordinator, reader, friend, mother, wife, grandmother, and many more.

The Wanda Henke Memorial Library Dedication Ceremony included: prayer and smudging/cedaring, dedication, prayer song, and honor song. With special permission from the Santee-Sioux Nation tribal council, Henke was also given a Dakota name, Ta Čante Wašte Yuha Omani Wiŋ, "She Walks With Her Good Heart". The dedication also included the tribal chairman, friends, and colleagues, among many others sharing kind words and heartfelt stories of Henke's love and undeniable ability to reach so many from surrounding communities to her relatives states away.

Henke's dedication plaque inscribes a quote from one of her favorite authors, James Patterson, who said, "You see, one of the best things about reading is that you'll always have something to think about when you're not reading". Like a good book, Mrs. Wanda Henke's reach continues to extend well beyond the library. Throughout the event, Henke's imprint was undeniably felt through shared memories, numerous hugs, and in the dedication of her students. To see Henke's full impact, one only needs to turn the page.



Henke's husband, Leland, and granddaughter Clara in front of the library's chalkboard wall/guestbook.



Wanda Henke, photo shared in memory of NICC's loving librarian.

LIBRARY NEWS

Bellevue University Library's Winter Holidays

Article by Alicia James

At the Bellevue University Library, we started our celebration of the winter holidays by decorating the library. One of our most unique decorations is our collection of miniature trees. Each of these trees has been cultivated by a library staff member to showcase a different theme. The collection was started last year with trees decorated to represent countries where we have large populations of international students, such as the United Kingdom and China. We added four new trees styled to represent different winter holidays.

These new trees included one covered in different versions of Santa from around the world and another was done up in blue and silver to showcase Hanukkah.

To further get into the festive spirit we hosted an Ugly Sweater Cookie decorating event. Library staff

provided seater shaped sugar cookies for the attendees to style with frosting, icing, and sprinkles. Some decorated their cookies to match their own ugly sweaters while others designed their own patterns. Everyone had a wonderful time and agreed that the best part was getting to enjoy the cookies after they were decorated!

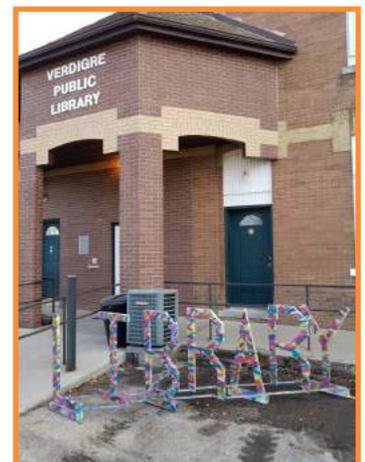
The BU Library is looking forward to a spring filled with exciting events, several of which will include appearances from our community partners — the DoSpace and Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha and the Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue. Keep an eye out for these events and more on the [library's calendar on our website!](#)



Verdigre Public Library's Unique & Functional Work of Art

Article by Katie Hollmann

As part of flood recovery, Verdigre Public Library commissioned a bike rack! As now one of the more unique ones in Nebraska, it also serves as a playground for kids.



DIY Breakout Box

Article by Melissa Young

As we discussed programming for our Adult Summer Reading Program last summer, we were very excited by the growing trend of Escape Rooms. The logistics of creating one were not feasible: children's programming would occupy our space most of the time and replacing a highly attended program with one that might flop seemed foolish. Needing to think smaller and more passive, we looked into Breakout Boxes.

Buying a Breakout Box Kit is expensive! We simply could not fit one into our budget without knowing how our community would receive it. So, I took on the challenge of frugally creating a puzzle that adults could work through logically whenever they had the time. We already had lockable ArtBin Quick View carrying containers (readily available from major retailers) and a cash box with a three-digit code. Three locked boxes is a good place to start for each puzzle, so we only needed to buy two locks for the ArtBins. The total price of starting this program was about \$20, plus office supplies (e.g. paper, glue/tape) and creation time.

Although I originally designed Breakout Boxes for adult summer programming, I did not make a minimum age requirement. People enjoyed it, and I now display a new Breakout Box every two months. Children, teens, adults, and families participate and look for each new challenge.

There are a few very important things that I learned from this process. The first is that whenever you are making a puzzle for someone to solve, it is best to work backwards. This means choosing the code to unlock each box before figuring out a puzzle that will get you that answer. The second thing is that word of mouth about a way to get candy is a strong advertisement. We advertised this new program on our website, in a few places in the library, and on our Facebook page. A few people found out in these ways, but after the first few children completed it, there were so many more coming in to try because they knew that candy was the prize for solving the puzzle.

As a small library, it can be difficult sometimes to create great programming or to participate in trends like these due to cost or time constraints. By using what we already have and creating content with it, we can save ourselves from this problem. For creative minds and those who are less so, I have several examples and resources at the link below, so that we can all offer this fun program to our patrons.

Breakout Box Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ne4xKep3M9QslQhp7JYvldGGY9_Y3z1B?usp=sharing



Medical Resources, Not as Scary as it Sounds

Article by Eric Jones

Often I hear library directors reference questions about health issues that are scary for them. The director does not want to provide inaccurate information, so she refers them back to the medical professional. Another response is, “people don’t want us to know about their personal life and their aches and pains.”

Have you ever heard of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM)? It sounds like a put-off: medicine, doctors, sick people, and words that cannot be pronounced or even spelled without a specialized dictionary. But they have a great website focused on the end consumer. And I want to point out three medical resources that they have that aren't scary, are easy to read, and two are so comfortable to use the patron can use them without assistance.

Let’s take a look at what the NNLM has to offer to you as a library director. First, as the library director, the NNLM, in conjunction with the Association of Small and Rural Libraries (ARSL), held a webinar titled [“Small Libraries, Big Impact: How the NNLM Can Help Small & Rural Libraries Support the Health Information Needs in Their Communities.”](#) It was a great program packed with information and a resource for

patrons and communities. I highly recommend the time to view it.

Another resource of the NNLM is [MedlinePlus](#), which is focused on details for patients, their families, and friends — in short, the general public. The website has the traditional articles, videos, and tools —which are ad-free and provides impartial information to consumers. Most of it is even in terms non-medical readers can understand and also has “healthy recipes.”

Have you ever dropped one of your pills only to find it later but not know which medication is it? Or find one in the bottom of your purse? What do you do with it now? Drop it in the trash because you don’t know what it is? Another online resource of the NNLM is [PILLBOX](#); developed to help quickly identify medications by their appearance and ingredients.

These are three great resources; one for yourself and two for your patrons. Do you have MedlinePlus and Pillbox bookmarked on your computer browser? Or better yet, create some links for the desktop for easy access?

Census 2020

Between March 12th and 20th initial invitations for the 2020 Census will arrive in mailboxes, though it will be conducted primarily online for the first time. As we know, the census happens every ten years and responding to the census is a chance to shape your future community. The responses inform where money is distributed, gives community leaders information for future planning, and are used to redraw legislative districts. Check out the [2020 Census Community Benefits Toolkit](#) for in depth information.

For information about how libraries will be affected and how librarians will be able serve their community in a different way, check out [ALA’s Libraries’ Guide to the 2020 Census](#).

The first census happened in 1790 when Congress passed the First Census Act. If you’re curious about more information about the first census, read all about it in [“U.S. Marshals Overcame Hardships and Challenges to Count 3,929,214 People in a Young America”](#) by Andrew Babin.

25th Annual Youth Services Retreat

Article by Keri Taylor

Thanks to a TRaiLS scholarship, I was able to attend to 25th Annual Youth Services Retreat. It was my first one and I loved it! The atmosphere was casual and very welcoming, which made it easy for me to participate. Any opportunity to listen to others in your profession share their challenges, victories, ideas, and resources is truly invaluable.

All of the sessions were useful and informative. My favorites were “Booktalk”, *YA Literature and the Teen Brain*, and *Spice-Up your Programming for Young Children with Spanish Language Experiences*. There were so many fantastic ideas shared during “Booktalk” - wow! I definitely will be inquiring about starting community story times and library scavenger hunts. I’m grateful for the insight I gained into the teen brain

and what transformations occur that impact them and their reading choices. I found the information very helpful not only for my work at the library but also at home with my own teens. In my community there is a large Spanish speaking population so I’m also thankful for the numerous resources given to me that will help me introduce a little bit of Spanish into my story times. Prior to the retreat I was hesitant to do so but I was shown how easy it can be and have gained the confidence to do it.

The Youth Services Retreat was inspiring and motivating. It gave me a renewed enthusiasm to implement new programs at my library. I look forward to attending again in the future!

2019 ILA/NLA/NSLA Conference

Article by Amy Reznicek

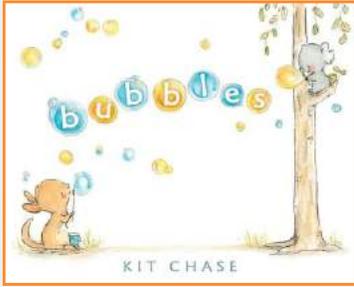
Have you ever applied for a grant through the Library System geared toward expenses incurred for system meetings for the NLA Conference? I hadn’t either, until this year. Our library applied for and received two grants for two employees to attend the 2019 ILA/NLA/NSLA Conference in October in La Vista. Our library service area is about 1,200 people and our budget is very tiny compared to our peer libraries. I really enjoy going to area meetings to glean information from other libraries about programs that work and those that could have been done different, Summer Reading ideas, E-Rate issues, community needs report ideas and so much more. The NLA is sort of like our area meetings on steroids. So much to see, ideas to try, and new people to meet.

One idea I am going to try to implement is a digital day for young teens using the Kahoot It app. I have already talked to our library kids about it and they said they use it in school and would love to use it as a monthly program at the library. One nugget of information just might help our afterschool crowd engage in ways they never imagined.

I had the nicest lunch partners at the NLA on Friday and the ladies had great ideas about how I can better address several teen issues we are having at our library. These ladies were from small libraries also and were more than happy to problem solve and share during our short time together. It is so important to attend some type of system meeting for state meeting every once in a while. As a small-town library, I want our library to stay relevant and critical to the community into the future. The way for me to help do that is to gain knowledge from others and remember just how great the library is.

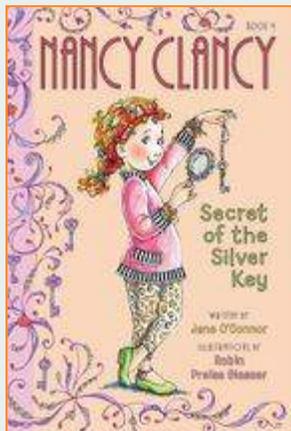
I am going to attend the Association for Rural and Small Libraries in Wichita, KS in 2020, and apply for a grant to help pay for the experience. Are you going?

REVIEW CORNER



Submit news, articles, pictures, or resources for the newsletter to Chelsea at trls.assistant@gmail.com.

Please feel free to email or call with suggestions and comments for the newsletter or system.



Bubbles

By Kit Chase

Recommended for preschoolers.

Article by Pat Thompson

Kangaroo is out hopping around blowing bubbles when he finds Koala who is blowing bubbles too. Kangaroo tries to be friendly, but Koala is shy and climbs up a tree. Nothing Kangaroo does will bring Koala out of the tree to play until they both

start blowing bubbles. Suddenly, their bubbles join and are headed right toward Kangaroo. Koala sees a chance to help and climbs down and helps destroy the bubble monster. Conversation starts up between the two with the sharing of bubble gum. Written for preschoolers, this delightful illustrated volume will be a favorite book starting conversations about friends, friendships, sharing, colors, and more.

Nancy Clancy: Secret of the Silver Key (Series #4)

By Jane O'Connor

Recommended for any public or school library; ages 7–10.

Nancy's parents purchase her a desk from an estate sale so that she can be more comfortable to do her homework. While exploring the roll-top desk, Nancy discovers a secret compartment in the back of one of the cubbyholes and finds, hidden inside, a silver key on a chain. The key does not fit the lock on the desk, so Nancy and her best friend Bree attempt to solve the mystery of the secret of the key by investigating the desk's series of owners and interviewing them in hopes it may lead them to solving the mystery of the silver key.

Simultaneously, Nancy and Bree are gathering information for a homework assignment, which happens to be an interview with an older person. Their neighbor, Mrs. DeVine, tells the girls about a friend she once had as a child and how they had vowed to be best friends forever. Mrs. DeVine also shared her photo album with the girls and inside were photos of Mrs. DeVine and her friend, Bitsy, holding up silver keys on chains — their friendship necklaces. Unfortunately, Bitsy moved away years ago and they lost contact with

each other. Nancy and Bree curiously think that there may be a connection between the friendship keys in the photos and the hidden key from the desk. When they finally track down the original owner of the desk and key, they discover it's Bitsy and that she lives only ten minutes away. The girls also learn that the keys don't open a lock, but they are tokens of friendship. Nancy and Bree promote a very happy surprise reunion party of Mrs. DeVine and Bitsy at the local ice cream shop. *Nancy Clancy: Secret of the Silver Key* is a most inspiring story that is filled with mystery and sleuthing, as well as discovering and analyzing, and it provides the perfect element regarding the value and importance of friendship.

Special features of this book: As with the other books in the series, Nancy's vocabulary includes French words, all of which are defined within the text.

Comparisons to other books: *Secret of the Silver Key* is the 4th book in the Nancy Clancy series and it fits in beautifully. As with *Nancy Clancy Super Sleuth*, *Nancy Clancy Secret Admirer*, & *Nancy Clancy Sees the Future*, *Nancy Clancy Secret of the Silver Key* encourages the attributes of friendship, compassion, honesty, loyalty, a strong will, and positive thinking.

SATURDAY APRIL 25TH * 9:00-1:00

OMAHA * KEARNEY * SCOTTSBLUFF

Nebraska School Librarians Day

Connect with school librarians in your area to discuss important topics including the role of school libraries, the school librarian's role in reading, and topics chosen by attendees at each site.

COST INCLUDES LUNCH

Members = \$10

Nonmembers = \$25 includes 1/2 year of membership

Nonmember Students = \$15 includes 1/2 year membership

Register on the NSLA website at neschoollibrarians.org

